

# Badlands In Your Classroom

National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Badlands National Park



## Plants, Animals, and Fossils – Oh My!

### Onsite Lesson Plan

**Grades:** K

**Length:** 50 minutes

### Materials:

 Ranger will bring:

- *Vanishing Vista* poster & puzzles
- pictures of Badlands National Park
- titanothere puzzles
- fossil travel box
- assortment of stuffed animals, pelts, and antlers

### South Dakota Science Standards

K

Nature of Science: 3,4

Life Science: 1,3,4

### National Science Standards

K-4 Content Standard A

### Objectives:

1. Work as part of a group to assemble a floor puzzle
2. Name important park resources with help from pictures (animals, plants, and fossils)
3. Manipulate, explore, and compare different fossils from the badlands

### Background:

This lesson introduces some of the resources of Badlands National Park. Students will work together to describe the animals and grassland habitat shown in pictures. Students will also have an opportunity to hold real fossils from the park. Students will be encouraged to describe and compare the different fossils from ancient mammals. The fossils at Badlands National Park are from a time period after dinosaurs. The fossils are from ancient mammals. Teachers, please visit our website, [www.nps.gov/badl](http://www.nps.gov/badl), to learn more about the fossil record at Badlands National Park.

### Vocabulary:

Prairie, Badlands National Park, mammal, pre-historic, fossil

### Procedure:

- Introduce yourself and Badlands National Park.
- Hand out a picture of Badlands National Park to each student. Ask what they see in the picture.
- Show *Vanishing Vista* poster. Talk about a few animals with the help of some props.
- Arrange the students in small groups. Pass out *Vanishing Vista* puzzles for them to assemble.
- As students complete the first puzzle, compliment them, collect their puzzle, and give them a few fossils to look at. When all students have fossils, tell them a short fossil story. Now distribute the titanothere puzzles for them to assemble.
- Conclude the program by thanking the entire group and reiterating the important resources of Badlands National Park.